

XV. *Descriptions of some new Lepidoptera-Heterocera in the collection of the Hon. Walter de Rothschild.*
By ARTHUR G. BUTLER, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

[Read June 5th, 1889.]

PLATE XII.

THE following five new species have recently been received from the Solomon Islands and the neighbourhood of Mombaza, E. Africa.

SPHINGIDÆ.

Cephonodes woodfordii, n. s. (Pl. XII., fig. 1).

Size of *C. apus*, upper surface almost exactly similar to *C. hylas*, the thorax bright olive-green, the abdomen ochreous, with the posterior half of the third and fourth segments black; anterior half of the fourth segment bright chestnut-red; fifth segment divided by a central longitudinal black-brown bar and edged with black; terminal segment glossy black, with ochreous extremity; lateral and anal tufts black: below the body is wholly different; the white colouring, with the exception of a streak bounding the eyes behind the palpi, being wholly absent; the palpi clear ochreous, the pectus and legs deep ochreous; venter dull black, transversely barred down the centre with decreasing ochreous bands, and at the sides with less prominent narrower bands; base of the wings below ochreous instead of white. Expanse of wings, 80 mm.

Guadalcanar, Solomon Islands (*Woodford*).

LITHOSIIDÆ.

Exotrocha securizonis, n. s. (Pl. XII., fig. 2).

♀. Nearly allied to *E. miles* from Alu, but larger; the scarlet band on the primaries hatchet-shaped, being narrower, and emitting a broad streak (on or below the costa) to the base; its outer edge less incurved at inner margin; in highly coloured examples the outer border and veins adjoining are shining steel-

blue; the black basal patch of the secondaries is larger, sometimes of three times the width. Expanse of wings, 39—43 mm.

Guadalcanar, Solomon Islands (*Woodford*).

Scaptosyle cærulescens, n. s. (Pl. XII., fig. 3).

Primaries with the basal fourth prussian-blue, followed by a tolerably broad band of clear bright chrome-yellow; the anterior part of this band is narrowed, its inner edge being very oblique; outer half of primaries occupied by a large almost semicircular patch of bright chestnut-red with black borders; secondaries dark sepia-brown, with a broad almost central cuneiform band of bright chrome-yellow from costa almost to anal angle; thorax prussian-blue; abdomen sepia-brown; wings below nearly as above; body below dark brown; anal segment dotted and tipped with pure white; legs paler brown; anterior tibiæ and tarsi for the most part white in front; knees of posterior legs white. Expanse of wings, 29 mm.

Guadalcanar, Solomon Islands (*Woodford*).

CERATOCAMPIDÆ.

Brahmæa ocelligera, n. s. (Pl. XII., fig. 4),

Nearest to *B. swanzii*; smaller, the primaries rather less produced, the colouring richer, no distinct whitish transverse line towards the base; the black lines across the basal third forming much less acute angles; the large triangular costal patch red-brown instead of black, and marked with three unequal ovoid pale-bordered black spots; its posterior angle is also extended downwards so as almost to unite with the internal patch, which is black, opaque, and subquadrate, the outer limitation of the belt thus formed is of less than half the width of the white post-median band in *B. swanzii*, but the intervals between the three succeeding lines are white; the black-centred apical ocellus is smaller; the second and third spots are oval, distinctly pale buff internally and shaded with olivaceous, externally dull pink bordered with white; the fourth to sixth spots are wider than in *B. swanzii* and more ocelloid, being black with pale buff internal and olivaceous external borders; the two last submarginal spots are also more ocelloid, broader, with their centres deep olivaceous; the fringe of apical third of primaries pale buff instead of olivaceous, and the remainder of the fringe darker than in *B. swanzii*: in the secondaries the basal area is blacker, more distinctly angular, not denticulated externally, and bounded by a considerably narrower white band; four instead of two only of the succeeding intervals between the

black lines are whitish or pale buff, the brown area occupied by the succeeding eight black lines is broader; the submarginal ocelloid spots are more uniform both in size and colour, those towards the anal angle not being relieved by white as in *B. swanzii*; the external border is decidedly darker; the thorax is uniformly blackish piceous; the antennæ and connecting band cream-coloured; the abdomen is tawny, with slightly paler margins to the segments; the dorsal white line is absent; on the under surface both wings and body are much darker than in *B. swanzii*; the central white band on the wings is very narrow, as on the upper surface; the legs are much paler. Expanse of wings, 122 mm.

About 50 miles inland from Mombaza.

SATURNIIDÆ.

Saturnia wallengrenii, Felder.

♂. Differs from the female chiefly in the much more acutely zigzag outer edge of the central belt of primaries, and the smaller and less prominent marginal white spots on all the wings. Expanse of wings, 89 mm.

About 50 miles inland from Mombaza.

I cannot think that the above distinctions have more than a sexual value; at any rate, it would not be safe to separate the Mombaza insect specifically without seeing the female.

Ceranchia mollis, n. s. (Pl. XII., fig. 5).

♀. Primaries soft greyish brown; the basal, costal, and post-median areas suffused with ash-grey; a transverse oblique snow-white band just before the middle from subcostal vein to inner margin, its inner edge sharply defined and slightly wavy, its outer margin diffused; an oval transverse ocellus, black edged with whitish, and encircled by a rose-coloured line immediately beyond the cell; secondaries with a similar ocellus, but encircled with brownish instead of rose-colour; external two-fifths ash-grey, shading into brown towards outer margin; body white, antennæ black; wings below greyish brown, with white internal areas; the ocelli of the upper surface represented by white-bordered black spots; palpi and pectus brown; venter white. Expanse of wings, 94 mm.

About 50 miles inland from Mombaza.

The pectinations of the antennæ are less regular in length in this species than in the other described forms of *Ceranchia*.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XII.

- FIG. 1. *Cephonodes woodfordii*.
2. *Exotrocha securizonis*.
3. *Scaptosyle cærulescens*.
4. *Brahmæa ocelligera*.
5. *Ceranchia mollis*.